

Occurrence of Odonata in Northern areas of Pakistan with seven new records

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Abstract

The study was undertaken to explore the Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies) of Northern Areas of Pakistan. The area has an assemblage of high mountains with unlimited water resources in the form of rivers, streams, springs and melted snow. New records of Odonata need to be explored from the area. The surveys were carried out during the months of April – August for four consecutive years (2004 – 2008). Help was also taken from the collection housed at National Insect Museum, Islamabad. Valid names alongwith their synonyms, distribution, habitat description and abundance for all the collected species are discussed in this paper. As total, 21 genera spreading to 37 species of Odonata, comprising of seven new records for the area including one new record for the country have been presented. A checklist for the area has also been included.

Keywords: Odonata, Dragonflies, Damselflies, Northern Areas, Pakistan.

Introduction

The Northern areas of Pakistan have an area of 72,496 sq. kms. Physiographically, it includes a set and series of high ranges of mountains (i.e Himalayas, Karakorum and the Hindukush) which are separated by the intervening valleys (Survey of Pakistan, 1997). Odonata of Northern areas are not well investigated in the past. In this regard, a need for comprehensive taxonomic work on Odonata of the area was felt and the present study was undertaken to record the un-explored Odonate

fauna of Northern areas of Pakistan.

Odonates are economically important insects. They are predaceous both as larvae and adult. The larvae are aquatic and are found in all types of water bodies ranging from soaks and seepages to lakes, streams, rivers, temporary pools and water-filled holes of trees (Trueman and Rowe, 2001). Larvae are known to consume tadpoles, fish fry, and mosquito

larvae (Boyd, 2005). Adults normally feed on small insects, including beetles, moths (Silsby, 2001), mosquitoes (Pedigo, 2002) and black flies (Subramanian, 2005). In Pakistan, they are known to feed on jassids, thrips (Ali, 1983), stem borers, leaf folders and leaf hoppers (Najam, 1984). They are highly sensitive to habitat disturbances, thus play a vital role as bio-indicators (Clausnitzer, 2003).

According to Trueman and Rowe (2001) there are 6500 named species of Odonata so far described all over the world. In past, Jehangir (1997) studied the Odonata of Gilgit and Baltistan and recorded 21 dragonfly and 7 damselfly species. Hussain (2006), reported 9 dragonfly species and a single damselfly species from districts Gilgit and Astor. In contrast to above, there is a lot of potential to explore un-seen Odonate fauna of the area.

Materials and Methods

All the districts of Northern areas of Pakistan were surveyed during four consecutive years (2004 – 2008). As a total 46 different sites under 7 districts (Fig. 1.) have been visited for collecting the adults of Odonata.

Northern areas (Gilgit and Baltistan):

Gilait Territory:

District: Diamer (Goru, Chillas, Darail, Goner Farm).

District: Astor (Rama, Boomroy, Youghum, Gorikot, Pakora, Moorghulum).

District: Hunzanagar (Hunza, Aliabad, Borath Lake, Sost).

District: Gilgit (Juglote, Danyore, Sultanabad, Chinar Bagh, Gilgit, Kashroat, Sonikot, Chinar Bagh, Aliabad).

District: Ghizzer (Gackhuch Bala, Gackuch Zireen, Saling).

Baltistan Territory:

District: Skardu (Sat Para, Kharmang, Shangrilla, Shigar, Skardu, Gol, Mehdiabad, Hussainabad, Oolding, Newranga, Sundus, Ashkoli).

District: Ghanche (Khaplu, Bara, Balghar, Yougo, Surmo, Kharko, Hushe, Chumik).

Collection was done during the months of April to August (2004 - 2008). Methods of sampling were based on Wahizatul-Afzan et. al. (2006) with minor additions. When catching over water, dip nets were used. However for collection on wing or while siting over any dry surface or vegetation, aerial netting was done. The collected specimens were killed in glass bottles containing cotton swab moistened with ethyl acetate. The killed specimens were then shifted to paper envelopes for bringing them to laboratory. The preservation methodology was based on Orr (2003). Adults were softened by giving them a water bath in hot water, after softening they were properly set by using setting boards. The collection was then identified under microscopes {Labornet CZM4 (4X)} following the taxonomic keys of Fraser, (1933 - 34) and Subramanian (2005). The identified specimens have been deposited in National Insect Museum, NARC - Islamabad.

Results

The surveys revealed a collection of 37 species of Odonata including 28 Anisopterous species spreading to 15 genera and 09 Zygopterous species spreading to 6 genera (Table 1). As a whole seven species viz. Sympetrum fonscolombei, S. commixtum, S. meridionale, Orthetrum taeniolatum, O. glaucum, Mortonagrion gautama and Libellago greeni are recorded for the first time from this area. Amongst these Mortonagrion gautama is new to the country record. Abundance of species was also observed, which showed that

Crocothemis servilia (Anisoptera) and Ischnura forcipata (Zygoptera) are the most common and abundant species of the area, recorded from 16 and 23 different localities respectively. However amongst Anisoptera (Aeschna juncea, Ophiogomphus reductus, Diplacodes lefbvrei, Orthetrum taeniolatum and Palpopleura sexmaculata sexmaculata) and Zygoptera (Libellago greeni and Mortonagrion guatama) appeared to be less common or rare and were recorded from single locality only.

Discussion

The Northern areas of Pakistan are

bestowed upon with variable habitats having lot of water streams and springs. Further collection surveys can unhide the existing but un-explored species of the area.

Acknowlegments

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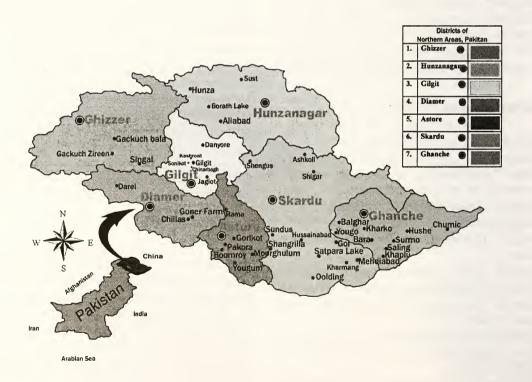


Fig.1: Map - Northern areas of Pakistan showing all the surveyed localities.

Table 1: Collected species of dragonflies along with their synonyms, distribution and habitat description.

S.No.	Scientific names	Synonyms	Distribution in Northern areas	Habitat description
	Aeshnidae Rambur, 1842			
01.	Aeshna juncea Linnaues 1758	Libellula juncea, Linnaeus, 1758 Aeshna Americana Bartenev, 1929	Gilgit (Astor (Rama, Boomroy)).	Collected from standing water spots with lot of grassy vegetation
02.	Anax immaculifrons Rambur, 1842		Baltistan (Ghanche (Balghar, Kharko, Yougo, Surmo), Skardu (Shigar, Hussainabad, New Ranga, Olding, Sundus)).	Collection was made from poorly vegetated banks of slow running water streams, some specimens were also collected while sitting on small rocks within water and from small bushes near streams.
03.	Anax nigrolineatus Fraser, 1935	Anax bacchus Martin 1908 Anax guttatus 1921 Anax furnosus 1923 Anax nigrolineatus 1935	Gilgit (Diamer (Goru), Astor (Rama)), Baltistan (Skardu (Gackuch Bala)).	Found flying along running water, field areas and from the marshy spots.
04.	Anax parthenope Selys, 1839	Aeschna parthenope Selys, 1839 Anax julius Brauer, 1865 Anax bacchus Hagen, 1867 Anax major Gotz, 1923 Anax parisinus Rambur, 1842 Anax geyri Buchholz, 1955 Anax jordansi Buchholz, 1955	Gilgit {Gilgit (Juglote, Darel, Chinarbagh, Juglote, Kashroat)}, Baltistan {Skardu (New Ranga), Shegar	it is a strong flier and was collected from about 1000 ft. altitude. The spots were having both streams and springs water.
	Cordulegasteridae Calvert, 1893			
05.	Cordulegaster brevistigma Selys, 1854	Anax bacchus 1908 Anax guttatus 1921 Anax furnosus 1923 Anax nigrolieatus 1935	Baltistan (Ghanche (Balghar)), Gilgit (Gilgit (Chinar Bagh), Hunzanagar (Sost)).	Found among tall and high vegetation beside water sources.
	Gomphidae Rambur, 1842			
06.	Ophiogomphus reductus Calvert, 1898	Ophiogomphus forficula Okumura, 1937	Baltistan (Skardu (Shangrilla)).	A single male and a female was collected while mating at the edges of stagnant weedy water spot near Shangrilla Lake.
	Libellulldae Rambur, 1842		,	
07.	Acisoma panorpoides panorpoides Rambur, 1842	Acisoma ascalaphoides Rambur, 1842 Acisoma inflata Selys, 1882 Acisoma variegatum Kirby, 1898	Gilgit (Diamer (Chillas)).	Specimens were collected as they were sitting on small rocks within and around water spots.
08.	Crocothemis erythraea Brulle, 1832	Libellula erythraea Brullé, 1832 Libellula rubra de Villers, 1789 (nec Müller, 1764) Libellula ferruginea Vander Linden, 1825 (nec Fabricius, 1775) Libellula coccinea Charpentier, 1840 Libellula inquinata Rambur, 1842 Crocothemis chaldaeora Morton, 1920	Baltistan (Ghanche (Balghar, Kharko, Surmo), Skardu (Shigar, Olding, Shangrilla)); Gligit (Hunza).	The species was found among the grasses and bushes present aside standing water lake and along slow moving water streams in different areas

Table-1: Continued

S.No.	Scientific names	Synonyms	Distribution in Northern areas	Habitat description
09.	Crocothemis servilia Drury, 1773	Libellula servilia Drury, 1773 Libellula ferruginea Fabricius, 1793 Libellula soror Rambur, 1842 Crocothemis reticulata Kirby, 1886	Baltistan (Ghanche (Balghar, Kharko, Yougo, Khaplu), Skardu (New Ranga, Shigar, Hussainabad, New Ranga, Sundus, Bara, Shangrilla, Skardu, Oolding)), Gilgit (Gilgit (Danyore, Juglote), Diamer (Chillas)).	Found flying over fast running water streams, sitting on submerged grasses, swampy places along banks of streams.
10.	Diplacodes lefebvrei Rambur, 1842	Libellula lefebvrei Rambur, 1842 Libellula parvula Rambur, 1842 Libellula flavistyla Rambur, 1842 Libellula tetra Rambur, 1842 Libellula concinna Rambur, 1842 Libellula mono Schneider, 1845 Diplacodes unimacula Förster, 1906 Diplacodes limbata Fraser, 1949	Baltistan {Skardu (Oolding)}.	Caught from the margins of weedy ponds.
11.	Libellula quadrimaculata Linnaeus, 1758	Libellula quadripunctata Fabricius, 1781 Libellula maculata Harris, 1782 Libellula temana Say, 1839 (part) Libellula quadrimaculata asahinai Schmidt, 1957 Libellula relicta Belyshev, 1973	Baltistan (Ghanche (Kharko, Yougo), Skardu (Shigar, Hussainabad, Sundus, Bara)), Gilgit (Astor (Rama,Boomroy)).	It is mountaneous species and was recorded from standing water ponds. Some of the specimens were collected while they were perching on the long grassy vegetation.
12.	Orthetrum anceps Schneider, 1845	Libellula anceps Schneider, 1845 Libellula rambuni Selys, 1848	Baltistan (Ghanche (Balghar, Kharko, Yougo, Khaplu, Surmo), Skardu (Shegar, Hussainabad, New Ranga, Sundus)}, Gilgit (Diamer (Chillas), Gilgit (Chinar Bagh, Juglote)}.	Collection was done from fresh water streams and grassy vegetation around spring water ways. Specimens were also found sitting on dead bushes and rock stones.
13.	Orthetrum brunneum brunneum Fonscolombe, 1837	Libellula brunnea Fonscolombe, 1837	Baltistan (Ghanche (Balghar, Khaplu), Skardu (Hussainabad, Sundus, Shangrilla, Skardu, Shigare, Ashkoli)), Gilgit (Gilgit (Juglote, Chinarbagh, Danyore, Kashroat)).	'Collection was done from standing as well as from moving water of streams and springs.
14.	Orthetrum cancellatum Linnaeus, 1758	Libellula cancellata Linnaeus, 1758	Baltistan (Ghanche (Balghar, Yougo, Surmo), Skardu (Shigar, Sundus, New Ranga, Shangrilla, Olding)}.	Collected from miscellaneous spots i.e. water lakes, from weeds growing on the banks of very slow running water ways and from water standing in empty tree holes and other pits with water.
15.	Orthetrum chrysostigma luzonicum Burmeister, 1839	Libellula chrysostigma, Burmeister, 1839 Libellula barbarum Selys, 1849 Orthetrum todii Pinney, 1970	Gilgit {Gilgit (Juglote)}, Baltistan {Skardu (Shangrilla)}.	Collected from spring water spots with a lot of lush green vegetation growing around it.
16.	^o Orthetrum glaucum Brauer, 1865	Libellula glaucum Brauer, 1865 Orthetrum gangi Sahni, 1965 Orthetrum glaucum Kirby, 1890 Orthetrum nicevillei Kirby, 1894	Baltistan (Ghanche (Balghar, Yougo), Skardu (Olding)), Gilgit (Gilgit (Chinarbagh), Diamer (Chillas, Darail), Astor (Boomroy)).	Found preying over minute insects hiding between grassy bushes around fresh water sources.
17.	Orthetrum pruinosum neglectum Burmeister, 1839	Libellula pruinosa Burmeister, 1839 Libellula neglecta Rambur, 1842 Libellula petalura Brauer, 1865 Libella clelia Selys, 1878 Orthetrum schneiden Forster, 1903	Baltistan (Skardu (Shegar), Mehdiabad}. Gilgit {Astor (Yougham)}.	Recorded from ponds and some other spots with standing water.

Table-1: Continued

S.No.	Scientific names	Synonyms	Distribution in Northern areas	Habitat description
18.	Orthetrum sabina Drury, 1770	Libellula sabina Drury, 1770 Libellula gibba Fabricius, 1798 Libellula leptura Burmeister, 1839 Libellula ampullacea Schneider, 1845 Lepthemis divisa Selys, 1878 Orthetrum nigrescens Bartenev, 1929 Orthetrum viduatum Lieftinck, 1942	Gilgit (Gilgit (Juglote, Danyore)).	In both the collection spots there was standing water with muddy and swampy areas around it.
19.	^o Orthetrum taeniolatum Schneider, 1845	Libellula taeniolata Schneider, 1845 Orthetrum hyalinum Kirby, 1886 Orthetrum brevistylum Kirby, 1896 Orthetrum garhwalicum Singh and Baijal, 1954	Baltistan {Skardu (Shangrilla)}.	Captured from standing as well as very fast moving water spots.
20.	Orthetrum triangulare triangulare Selys, 1878	Libellula triangularis Selys, 1878 Libellula delesserti Selys, 1878 Libellula melanica Selys, 1883 Pseudothemis nigrifrons Matsumura, 1898 Orthetrum ganeshii Mehrotra, 1961 Orthetrum chandrabali Mehrotra, 1961	Gilgit {Gilgit (Juglote, Kashroat), Diamer (Chillas, Darail)}, Baltistan {Ghanche (Hushe, Chumick)}.	Specimens were collected from different standing water spots. They were not recorded from any running water spot in the visited areas.
21.	Palpopleura sexmaculata sexmaculata Fabricius, 1787	Libellula sexmaculata Fabricius, 1787	Baltistan {Skardu (Oolding)}.	
22.	Pantala flavescens Fabricius, 1798	Libellula flavescens Fabricius, 1798 Libellula viridula Palisot de Beauvois, 1805 Libellula analis Burmeister, 1839 Libellula terminalis Burmeister, 1839 Sympetrum tandicola Singh, 1955	Gilgit (Gilgit (Kashroat, Sultan abad)).	The specimens were collected from variable spots i.e standing water spots, moving water spots, long grasses and dry branches of some dwarf plantations.
23.	°Sympetrum commixtum Selys, 1884	Diplax commixta Selys, 1884	Gilgit {Astor (Moorgulum, Gorikot)}.	Found flying and feeding around standing water areas.
24.	°Sympetrum fonscolombei Selys, 1840	Libellula flaveola, Fonscolombe 1837	Gilgit (Astor (Yougham, Boomroy, Pakora)}.	This is mountainous species and mostly found around standing water sitting in bushes and grass.
25.	°Sympetrum meridionale Selys, 1841	Libellula meridionalis Selys, 1841 Libellula hybrida Rambur, 1842 Diplax meridionalis Braur, 1868 Sympetrum meridionals Meyer, 1874	Gilgit {Astor (Pakora, Gorikot)}.	Recorded from the dry branches of plants present along the margins of ponds and some small standing water points.
26.	Traemea virginia Rambur, 1842	<i>Libellula virginia</i> Rambur, 1842	Gilgit (Gilgit (Juglote), Ghizer (Saling)}.	Specimens were collected while they were perching in sunlight, earlier in the afternoon.
27.	Trithemis aurora Burmeister, 1839	Libellula aurora Burmeister, 1839 Trithemis soror Brauer, 1868 Trithemis adelpha Selys, 1878 Trithemis fraterna Albarda, 1881 Trithemis congener Kirby, 1890	Baltistan (Skardu (Skardu, Shegar)).	The collection was done along the banks of streams. The specimens were busy in feeding, mating and hunting while flying near the muddy banks. The spot was also having grasses which were submerged in the stream water.
28.	Trithemis festiva Rambur, 1842	Libellula festiva Rambur, 1842 Libellula infernalis Brauer, 1865 Trithemis proserpina Selys, 1878	Gilgit {Gilgit (Danyore, Juglote)}.	Collected during mating, while sweeping the net blindly in the air with in a crop field.

Table: 2 Collected species of damselflies along with their synonyms, distribution and habitat description.

S.No.	Scientific names	Synonyms	Distribution in Northern areas	Habitat description
	Chlorocyphidae Cowley, 1937			
01.	°Libellago greeni Laidlaw 1924	Micromerus greeni Laidlaw, 1924	Gilgit (Ganyore)}.	Recorded while mating within a grassy spot along moving water.
	Coenagrionidae Kirby, 1890			
02.	*Mortonagrion gautama, Fraser 1923	Indagrion gautama Fraser, 1922	Gilgit (Gilgit (Danyor)).	Found in stagnant water pond at Danyore. The pond was surrounded by thick as well as thin long and dwarf vegetation. The species was recorded when it was busy in preying over minute insects.
03.	Ceriagrion coromandelianum Fabricius, 1798	Agrion coromandelianum Fabricius, 1798 Agrion cerinum Rambur, 1842	Gilgit (Diamer (Darail, Chillas)).	Collected while hovering stagnant water and from vegetation grown aside water streams.
04.	Enallagma cyathigerum Charpantier, 1840	Agrion cyathigerum Charpantier, 1840 Agrion annexum Stephens, 1835 (nec Charpentier, 1825) Agrion pulchrum Hagen, 1840 Agrion charpentieri Selys, 1840 Agrion annexum Hagen, 1861 Enallagma robustum Selys, 1875 Enallagma continentale Belyshev, 1956 Enallagma nigrolineatum Belyshev and Haritonov, 1975	Baltistan {Ghanche (Kharko, Yougo), Skardu (Shigar, Hussainabad, New Ranga, Olding, Sundus, Shangrilla)}, Gilgit {Hunzanagar (Hunza)}.	The species was found feeding among the grasses and bushes present aside standing water lake and along slow moving water ways.
05.	Ischnura aurora Brauer, 1865	Agrion aurora Brauer, 1865 Agrion delicatum Hagen, 1876 Ischnura delicata Hagen, 1876 Micronympha aurora Kirby, 1890 Nanosura aurora kennedy, 1920 Ishnura bhimtalensis Sahni, 1965	Gilgit {Diamer (Darail, Chillas)}.	Found flying among thin vegetation presen a little distant to water streams. Also collected while sitting on swampy places. Sometimes found between the submerged vegetation along streams and springs.
06.	Ischnura elegans Vander Linden, 1820	Agrion elegans Vander Linden, 1820 Ischnura larnellata Kolbe, 1885	Baltistan (Skardu (Gol, Shigar, Husainabad, New Ranga, Olding, Sundus), Ghanche (Kharko)), Gilgit (Diamer (Darel), Gilgit (Juglote, Danyore, Kashroat, Chinar Bagh), Ghizer (Saling)).	Collection was done from grassy vegetation around water spots
07.	Ischnura forcipata Morton, 1907	Ischnura musa Bartenev, 1913 Ischnura gangetica Laidlaw, 1913 Agriocnemis nainitalensis Sahni, 1965 Coenagrion needhami Navas, 1933	Baltistan (Ghanche (Balghar, Kharko, Yougo, Khaplu, Surmo), Skardu (Gol, Satpara, Shigar, Hussainabad, New Ranga, Shangrilla), J. Gilgit (Diamer (Chillas (Goner farm, Darel, Goru), Gilgit (Chinar Bagh, Danyore, Sonikot, Juglote), Astor (Rama), Hunzanagur (Borath Lake), Ghizer (Gackuch Bala, Gackuch Zireen)).	It is a common species of the region and thus collected from a variable number of ecological habitats including grasses growing among stagnant water and along running water, some times found among thick and dense vegetation present aside a little away from water streams. Also found flying among small grasses present a little distant to water streams.
08.	Ischnura senegalensis Rambur, 1842	Agrion senegalensis Rmbur, 1842 Enallagma brevispina Selys, 1876	Baltistan (Ghanche (Balgar)).	Caught from grassy and swampy spot.
	Synlestidae			
09.	Megalestes major Selys, 1962		Baltistan (Skardu (Oolding), Aliabad).	Collection was done from spots with high grassy vegetation. Some specimens were collected along water side as well as some from nearby small mountains.

^{*} New record for Country
* New record for Northern areas

Check list of Odonata of Northern areas of Paksistan

SUB ORDER ANISOPTERA

Family: Aeshnidae Rambur, 1842 Genus *Aeshna* Fabricius 1775 *Aeshna juncea* Linnaues 1758

Genus Anax Leach, 1815 Anax immaculifrons Rambur, 1842 Anax nigrolineatus Fraser, 1935 Anax parthenope Selys, 1839

Family: Cordulegasteridae Calvert, 1893 Genus *Cordulegaster* Leach, 1815 *Cordulegaster brevistigma* Selys, 1854

Family: Gomphidae Rambur, 1842 Genus *Ophiogomphus* Selys, 1854 *Ophiogomphus reductus* Calvert, 1898

Family: Libellulidae Rambur, 1842 Genus *Acisoma* Rambur, 1842 *Acisoma panorpoides panorpoides* Rambur, 1842

Genus Crocothemis Brauer, 1868 Crocothemis erythraea Brulle, 1832 Crocothemis servilia Drury, 1773

Genus *Diplacodes* Kirby, 1889 *Diplacodes lefebvrei* Rambur, 1842

Genus *Libellula* Linnaeus, 1758 *Libellula quadrimaculata* Linnaeus, 1758

Genus Orthetrum Newman, 1833 Orthetrum anceps Schneider, 1845 Orthetrum brunneum brunneum Fonscolombe, 1837 Orthetrum cancellatum Linnaeus, 1758 Orthetrum chrysostigma luzonicum
Burmeister, 1839
Orthetrum glaucum Brauer, 1865
Orthetrum pruinosum neglectum Burmeister, 1839
Orthetrum sabina Drury, 1770
Orthetrum taeniolatum Schneider, 1845

Orthetrum triangulare triangulare Selys, 1878

Genus Palpopleura Rambur, 1842 Palpopleura sexmaculata sexmaculata Fabricius, 1787 Pantala flavescens Fabricius, 1798

Genus Sympetrum Newman, 1833 Sympetrum commixtum Selys, 1884 Sympetrum fonscolombei Selys, 1840 Sympetrum meridionale Selys, 1841

Genus *Traemea* Hagen, 1861 *Traemea virginia* Rambur, 1842

Genus *Trithemis* Brauer, 1868 *Trithemis aurora* Burmeister, 1839 *Trithemis festiva* Rambur, 1842

SUB ORDER ZYGOPTERA
Family: Chlorocyphidae Cowley, 1937
Genus Libellago Selys, 1840
Libellago greeni Laidlaw 1924

Family: Coenagrionidae Kirby, 1890 Genus *Mortonagrion* Fraser, 1920 *Mortonagrion gautama* Fraser 1923

Genus *Ceriagrion* Selys, 1876 *Ceriagrion coromandelianum* Fabricius, 1798

Genus *Enallagma* Charpentier, 1840 *Enallagma cyathigerum* Charpantier, 1840 Genus Ischnura Charpentier, 1840 Ischnura aurora Brauer, 1865 Ischnura elegans Vander Linden, 1820 Ischnura forcipata Morton, 1907 Ischnura senegalensis Rambur, 1842

Family: Synlestidae

Genus Megalestes Selys, 1862 Megalestes major Selys, 1962

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